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MINUTES
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

Helene Hall, Hana

April 4, 2001

CONVENE: 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Chair
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member
Councilmember Dain P. Kane, Member
Councilmember Patrick S. Kawano, Member
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member
Councilmember Charmaine Tavares, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Alan M. Arakawa, Member
Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, Member
Councilmember Wayne K. Nishiki, Member

STAFF: Ken Fukuoka, Director
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Legislative Attorney
Pauline Martins, Committee Secretary

Marni Aina, Council Aide, Hana Council Office

ADMIN.: Myles Inokuma, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Judith Williams, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Makahinu Cockett, Kukulu Kumuhana
Gregg Balicki, Executive Director, Hana Youth Center
Patricia Cabellon
Raymond Henderson, Executive Director, Ohana Makamae
Dorothea Pua, Ohana Makamae and Hale Hulu Mamo (Hana Senior Center)
Malia Henderson, Director, Hale Hulu Mamo
John Blumer-Buell
Carl Lindquist
Lisa Hamilton
John Smith, Maui Economic Concerns of the Community, Inc.

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Barbara Sedano, Project Impact
Lesley Ann Bruce, Hana Arts, Inc. and proposed Hana newspaper
Dorli Reeve
Others (11)

PRESS: None.

BF-9: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002 FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (C.C. Nos. 99-305, 00-140, 00-222, 01-25, 01-26, 01-47 and 01-70, and three MISC. Communications)

CHAIR HOKAMA: Council's Committee on Budget and Finance will come to order. Good evening, Hana.

AUDIENCE: Good evening.

CHAIR HOKAMA: On behalf of the Council's Budget Committee, we thank you for sharing your evening with us. Just as a note . . . uh . . . news item, Mr. Molina--who has unbelievable influence--has been . . . uh . . . inform., has informed me that Maui Electric is hoping to restore your power within an hour or so.

AUDIENCE: . . . *(cheered and applauded)* . . . Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: So if it doesn't, remember Mike Molina. . . . *(laughter)* . . .

OTHERS: . . . *(laughter)* . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Nah . . . just, just kidding. . . . *(chuckled)* . . . At this time, I would like to ask anyone who would like to share comments with us on the proposed budget, please sign a form; so we can make sure that you have an opportunity to share your thoughts with us this evening. Because we have no power, we're gonna ask you to please come forward by the cross (*NOTE: Chair Hokama is referring to the testifier's spot which is marked on the floor*) and speak as loudly and clearly as you can. And because we're doing everything on batteries, try to be as . . . uh . . . straight to the point as possible; and if you have some written comments that you would submit to us to ensure your, your testimony is accurately received by us, we would appreciate that. So, at this time, I'd like to introduce Mr. Bob Carroll, the Councilmember from East Maui--Hana--to introduce the rest of the Committee. Mr. Carroll.

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COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Thank you. Of course . . . (*inaudible*) . . . our Chair Riki Hokama from Lana`i. Sitting next to--on his right--Pat Kawano from the island of Moloka`i.

COUNCILMEMBER KAWANO: Good evening.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Mike Molina from Upcountry--our electric person.

MEMBERS: . . . (*chuckled*) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Dain Kane from Wailuku . . . and a Hana girl--Charmaine Tavares.

AUDIENCE: . . . (*cheered and applauded*) . . .

MEMBERS: . . . (*chuckled*) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Thank you. . . . (*chuckled*) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Also . . . uh . . . for your information, we are supported by our staff that makes us look a little better. And on our staff, we have Pauline Martins, Richelle Kawasaki Lu and . . . uh . . . representing our, our staff in Hana is Marni Aina . . . and in charge of our Council staff is . . . uh . . . the Director--Mr. Ken Fukuoka--who always tends to sit in the back. Okay.

MEMBERS: . . . (*chuckled*) . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Supporting us from the Administration and our key people here this evening is Mr. Myles Inokuma from the Office of Mayor Apana. And we also have from our Corporation Counsel or our, our Legal Attorney to advise us, we have Judy Williams here this evening. Okay . . . uh . . . Hana, we . . . uh . . . unless things improve, I'm gonna be adjourning this meeting about, by 7:15, because of either the lighting and everything else. So, we ask you for your . . . uh . . . to please bear with us during this time of . . . uh . . . this unique situation that I haven't been . . . (*chuckled*) . . . dealt with before, so I appreciate your patience and indulgence. And again, we'll start off with your testimony and we are here to listen to you tonight and . . . uh . . . not for us to be doing all the speaking. So, we'll start off with . . . Maka., Maka . . . uh . . .

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COUNCILMEMBER KANE: Makahinu.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Makahinu Cockett. So please . . . uh . . . state your name for the record and just tell us what you think.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. COCKETT: Okay. Aloha. My name is Makahinu Cockett. I'd like to welcome everybody here this evening. I didn't get a chance to really overlook the proposal but I'll take time out and . . . um . . . look it over. I'm pretty sure everything is in line but . . . um . . . the reason I'm here is I just wanted to . . . um . . . get your attention about our project that we've been working on here in Hana and it wouldn't have . . . uh . . . been suc., as successful as it has been if, if not for the help of the County. You know, people like . . . um . . . Jimmy Perry and his road-crew and in, a lot of community members in our community who, who have . . . *(inaudible)* . . . our vision . . . um . . . to take responsibility in . . . for our community. And . . . um . . . I never come here for ask for money. This is good because . . . uh . . . I know we limited budget but . . . but in light of, of everything, you know, about . . . um . . . economics, you know, Hana has a unique opportunity, yeah? Because this is the . . . the traffic that comes and visit us daily and, hopefully, then we can . . . I, I read in one section about the . . . a community kitchen--a certified kitchen. I think that's a real good, to agree on . . . uh . . . thing to be . . . uh . . . to support. And one thing . . . um . . . I wanted to . . . um . . . bring to our attention is, right where I live, on the top of Kauiki Street, right next to us is Paanimai Park and it's such a very dangerous place. Our children cannot have access to the park and, you know, I really wish that you could find some, some way of, you know, not redirecting the traffic 'cause it's the main--main flow--but the traffic passes right . . . right through the park, you know, right where the park is and there's only enough room, I think, for parking for three or four cars . . . and it's always a risk 'cause it's on a blind turn. You know, there's no access other than the kids has to just take that risk, you know, and I, I . . . I don't let my children go to the park at all. You know, although we get a new bathroom facility . . . yeah, I mean, I think if you could provide some access--some safe access--and, you know, for the good of our children and, and . . . um . . . I'd like to see something done about that. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER KANE: I have a question.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hold on. *(NOTE: He is talking to Mr. Cockett, who's walking away from the mic)* Mr. Kane?

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COUNCILMEMBER KANE: Maka, what's the name of the park again?

MR. COCKETT: Paanimai Park.

COUNCILMEMBER KANE: Thank you.

MR. COCKETT: Oh, and about our project, our, our project is that . . . um . . . that project that's going on over . . . um . . . process of high school. My wife is the Ag Teacher and I'm just speaking on behalf of Kukulu Kumuhana 'cause I'm the Project Director in charge of that . . . um . . . the improvement that we're making across the street. You know, there's a lot of . . . um . . . things that, a lotta potential in the growth of education, perpetuating our culture and looking forward to becoming self-sustaining and, you know . . . uh . . . later on, we can . . . uh . . . I can share a little bit more . . . *(inaudible)* . . . with you folks at you folks . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Cockett. Next, we have Mr. Gregg Balicki.

MR. BALICKI: Hi.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi.

MR. BALICKI: My name is Gregg Balicki. I'm the Executive Director at the Hana Youth Center. I'm here to thank you, first of all, for the funding from past years . . . um . . . and also would like to thank you for the restroom facilities at the ballpark. It helps, helps the kids there and the speed bumps that were put in by the youth center. There's been a lot of upgrades in that, in that area and it's much appreciated. We would like to . . . again, we're asking, we are putting in for a grant application for this year . . . um . . . asking for the support the Hana Youth Center . . . um . . . the Ohana Aloha Project--which is also a project with the Hana Youth Center. One of the things that we, we are focusing on is more recreation-type activities. We have other areas in other organizations within the town . . . um . . . that we're trying to work together with, to provide main things. We have, we do have a, a pa., a 15-passenger van was purchased . . . um . . . three years back with County funds and we appreciate that. And what we're trying to do more is provide, help some of the other organizations. This volleyball team we'll be helping in a couple of weeks, with transportation when they go to Lana'i for their volleyball tournament. And just basically, hopefully, we can receive support this year and we appreciate it if we do. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Balicki. Next, we have Patricia--

MS. CABELLON: Cabellon.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: --Cabellon.

MS. CABELLON: Yeah, I'm here to ask . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: State your name for the record.

MS. CABELLON: Patricia Cabellon.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. CABELLON: And I am here to ask support for Microenterprise. This March--the 10th of March--Microenterprise gave me \$5,000 . . . well, to start a business. And by the end of March--the same month--I had a booth at the taro festival, sold half of my inventory, made enough money to order a whole new batch of goods from . . . (*inaudible*) . . . and just to show you that Microenterprise helped me structure and, you know, and . . . made the study--the projections and all--so that I am able to have a second collection, which I can sell through stores in New York and privately. So, Microenterprise really helped me. They really could do a lot of good for women in Hana, especially . . . you know, something like the taro festival. So, I would like to really give my support to the Microenterprise.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Next, we have Marni Aina.

MS. AINA: Hi, Council members. My name is Marni Aina and I'm here today just to, on behalf of the Hana Parks and Recreation came in and asked me . . . they, they couldn't be here tonight. They have already spoke to Councilmember Carroll about these matters. They wanted me to thank you for the, for getting the bathrooms in the ballpark are finally finished and the community is really, really appreciative of that. Also, there are a few things they just wanted to put in your mind for this year. And . . . uh . . . one was parking around the ballpark area. They have some tentative plans that they are researching to see if that would work . . . with Tony Medeiros in Parks' Planning. So, they are doing some planning on that.

One, and another is upgrading the kitchen to become a certified kitchen at the old school. That's been spoken on.

And another is a, a second pavilion here at Hana Bay. This pavilion that we have is, is heavily used for many community functions--you know, graduations, weddings, baby luaus, you know, regattas, taro festival and aloha week activities--and . . . um . . . the Parks and Recreation Department feels it would be very helpful to have another facility, exactly the same as that, on that side of the, of the bay that could be used for two different functions at the same time.

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Oh . . . I just found out, recently, that the planning stages for the septic system--here in this bathroom in this building--has, is gonna start. This is a big problem. It overflows onto the road and people walk in it and it's been an ongoing problem which has been tempora., temporarily fixed at, but . . . um . . . we really feel that it needs to be addressed in a long-term sense. And . . . um . . . that's a really important one. Keanae ballpark . . . there were . . . um . . . some improvements made to the ballpark in 1998. However, not all of the improvements were completed. They still needed a scorebooth and dugouts. The community has reached out to say that they're willing to provide the manpower . . . um . . . to put up these structures and would like for the Council maybe to provide the materials; but they're willing to work with the County on doing their part for that. And a comfort station, also, at Keanae ballpark. That, that . . . um . . . bathroom down there is heavily used now that the Kauma., Kaumahina State Park bathroom is, was burnt down and now they have the portable bathrooms there that people won't--the tourist vans don't like to their patrons there because of, you know, obviously . . . and so they take it down to the, the bathroom that's on the landing and it's heavily used and there's only two toilets in the women's and one in the men's. Over 30 tour vans a day, 7 days a week to use that, those little tiny bathrooms, as well as community functions--ho'olauleas, you know, craft fairs, baseball tournaments, softball tournaments and, and everything else. So, upgrading that bathroom and expanding, possibly, would really be good for that area.

And finally, the staffing needs. Because of the elimination of the contracted workers to clean the bathrooms and pick up the trash, they feel that they need one more full-time Park Caretaker to keep up with the demands as well as they were . . . um . . . Keanae ballpark was added onto their list of parks to take care of. And . . . one full-time Building Maintenance Repair Person. A lot of the facilities in Hana are old and . . . um . . . require continuous and ongoing maintenance to keep the buildings in . . . in good enough . . . um . . . condition for the agencies to work out of. And until that position can be allocated, they ask that maybe once a week someone from BMR could come over on a regular basis to keep up with their projects until somebody full time can be put into Hana. And that, they had that in the past and they felt that that worked real well for maintenance as well as new projects. And that's all I have. Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER KAWANO: I have a question.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hold on, Marni. Mr. Kawano?

COUNCILMEMBER KAWANO: Marni, do Hana have a certified public . . . uh . . . kitchen?

MS. AINA: Not at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER KAWANO: No?

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MS. AINA: No. But I understand, there have, made some improvements to the old school cafeteria and they do plan on certifying it. I think they still need to put in a hood.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Yeah.

MS. AINA: And . . .

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: They have two more things.

MS. AINA: Two more . . . two more things and then they'll, they're planning on having that certified.

COUNCILMEMBER KAWANO: Thank you. Thank you, Chairman.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Marni. Raymond Henderson.

MR. HENDERSON: Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Aloha.

MR. HENDERSON: My name is Raymond Henderson. I'm the Executive Director at Ohana Makamae. We are a Hana Family Resource Center. We started about two years ago--actually July of 1999--as a grassroots organization funded, primarily, from a private member of this community. Have now received County funding--last year--for 501(c)(3). Thank you for your . . . uh . . . your thoughtfulness in funding us. We were very fortunate. Most of the people in Maui had . . . (*inaudible*) . . . as well. A couple of things that I just wanted just to let you, you know, be aware of is that, first of all, our primary function in town has been to support families that are dealing with substance abuse issues. It's a, it's a terrible plague here in East Maui. And some of the things that we're dealing with now re., revolve around the families are facing . . . uh . . . a terrible situation for those who have been used to . . . uh . . . being supported by the government are facing a very, very small timeframe in which they now have to get off government help. That brings a whole, another series of issues and so I, I guess as a member of the community, I wanted to find out if there's an open forum for people who live in the community to talk to the County to figure out how we're gonna deal with this issue as families have a Fender., Federal mandate to not receive help anymore, what are we gonna do with these families--who no longer can receive welfare assistance? There's no jobs in town and so how can we work with the community to shore that up.

The other issue that I, I'd like to talk about is . . . uh . . . a Maui agency collaboration. I'm not sure, I've been working with Bob's Office on trying to find out how many agencies in Central

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Maui receive funding, claiming they service East Maui but then the service is never rendered here. And we have been able to--on our own--collaborate with two or three or four agencies that said that we can provide those services and they can contact with us to utilize what monies available to service East Maui to actually service East Maui. And I know there's a budgetary problems with everybody on the island. It's, it's a really tough situation to have to send somebody out here two-and-a-half hours and then stay here a couple of hours and drive back. But I would just like to have maybe more of an open dialogue with the Council or with the County. But if there are agencies that are asking for funds and saying they, they service the whole island, then let's have some communication between communities so that we can know. If they, if they cannot service--but receive budget--then let the, the services that are in the town or in the rural area know so that we can provide those services and pull money from that resource. That's all I have to say.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MR. HENDERSON: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: One thing, I wi., I will talk Mr. Carroll for you but you can also contact Sean McLaughlin.

MR. HENDERSON: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: He is the President of the Maui Non-Profit Directors Association.

MR. HENDERSON: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: And my understanding is they have about 30-plus non-profit agencies in this group--

MR. HENDERSON: We're in the group.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --and you should be able to get some of that information . . . and that includes saying they're providing services to East Maui. And then maybe Mr. Carroll can work with Director Alice Lee--

MR. HENDERSON: Yes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --of Human Concerns and maybe have some kind of community dialogue for you.

MR. HENDERSON: Great.

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COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: I made the request, already.

MR. HENDERSON: Yeah . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Carroll.

MR. HENDERSON: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Henderson.

MR. HENDERSON: Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Dorothea Pua.

MS. PUA: I'm Dorothea Pua and I'm on the Board of Directors for the . . . um . . . Senior Center and also the Resource Center that Ray was just speaking of. And I'd like to thank you all so much for all the support because these are critical issues here in Hana--being so far away from the central area and somebody's there, and . . . um . . . we just don't want you to forget us out here. Please continue to support us because it's really no minders, truly.

COUNCILMEMBER KAWANO: We never forget you folks.

MS. PUA: Pardon?

COUNCILMEMBER KAWANO: We never forget you folks. . . . *(chuckled)* . . .

MS. PUA: Oh I . . . I know and we don't forget you--we watch you on t.v., when we can't see you in person. . . . *(chuckled)* . . .

MEMBERS: . . . *(chuckled)* . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Dorothea. Next, we have Malia Henderson.

MS. HENDERSON: Aloha. My name is Malia Henderson. I'm the Director for Hale Hulu Mamo (Hana Senior Center) and I'm here to testify . . . just thank you so much for your support to . . . um . . . to Maui Adult Day Care Center--the sheltered and the Maui Adult Day Care Center. We are not a daycare center--but adoptive center--and we provide services at this time. Right

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now, the . . . (*inaudible*) . . . is something that we are definitely looking for, towards . . . um . . . in the future. The County provides our building and . . . it's a nice wonderful place. I'm not sure if any of you have been by. We just had Mayor Apana stop in a couple weeks ago and tour the facility. Our kupuna are able to come there--socially there--and do a lot of different creative . . . um . . . activities and come hang out. You know, it's a fun place for them. And so, I'd like to ask you to continue to support the daycare centers and . . . and help with that. Hopefully, one thing that we would probably . . . um . . . may be looking forward to, in the future, is the use of transportation, collaborate with . . . um . . . Hana Community Health Center--that . . . uh . . . who is providing transportation for our kupuna--and . . . um . . . they pick up our kupuna all the way in Kipahulu. I . . . (*inaudible*) . . . amount for those who don't have transportation and . . . um . . . they also provide meals on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for any kupuna that are there for a long period of time and we also utilize our nutrition program on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much, Malia. Next, we have John Blumer-Buell. I see you're prepared, John, with your flashlight. . . . (*chuckled*) . . .

OTHERS: . . . (*chuckled*) . . .

MR. BLUMER-BUELL: I called the, I called your office on the other side and they said you all had flashlights and were, were ready. My name is John Blumer-Buell and I'm testifying for myself, this afternoon. Thanks for coming out. I wanted to focus on . . . uh . . . five things today. But I'd first mention that over the past . . . uh . . . 15 years, I've testified just about every year for the MEO buses, particularly for our seniors. Our seniors in Hana really depend on that. I'd say that's . . . uh . . . at the top of most people's list, along with their senior center to have at least the minimal level of support. It used to, the other one every year used to be our daycare center and . . . uh . . . Kamehameha Schools has come in, so that's . . . uh . . . we're not in need of those funds.

The first thing on my list is \$125,000 for the certified commercial community kitchen in or near Hana town. Mayor Apana's Hana Advisory Committee--on which I serve--has discussed this issue at several meetings. There is a positive consensus that this will be a substantial long-term benefit for the Hana community. And I think . . . um . . . I believe the Mayor supports this item.

The second one is \$25,000 for Na Moku Aupuni O Koolau Hui, which serves the Keanae Wailua Nui community. This group is involved in important community service. This year, they are first or second on my list of organizations deserving County support. And some of you may remember the last year--Ed Wendt--the president was, testified in front of the County Council. So, I really believe that there a group that really deserves . . . uh . . . County support.

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COUNCILMEMBER KANE: Can you repeat that name, John?

MR. BLUMER-BUELL: Yes. It's Na Moku Aupuni O Koolau Hui. Ed Wendt is the . . . um . . . President of that. I believe . . . um . . . still is President of that and . . . uh . . . I think Awapuhi Carmichael is still the . . . uh . . . maybe secretary or treasurer.

The third thing is a fire sprinkler system at the Old Hana School. This request was first brought forward about ten years ago. The fire prevention system could save this historic and important community structure. The cost of replacement would probably approach \$1 million and . . . uh . . . I looked at a list of testimony from the community--going back 15 years--and, and the County has done a great job of funding just about everything. This is one of the few things left that . . . uh . . . is probably a prudent expenditure.

The fourth thing is 5 to 10 thousand dollars to document the need for a new Hana Community Center and to create a conceptual plan and drawing. The new community center would potentially include a sports complex and performing arts center. And this is . . . uh . . . this is a . . . um . . . I think a s., a small request. I know it's, you know, after the Mayor's initial budget but . . . uh . . . there is . . . uh . . . had . . . uh . . . discussions with Jackie Kahula and others regarding the need for a . . . another ballfield for possibly . . . uh . . . a small tennis complex for the kids, where you have some . . . uh . . . maybe up to six courts and . . . uh . . . a performing arts center and community center that would allow the infrastructure for events like the taro festival and others. Well this is a long-term idea and I will just get you more information as time goes on. It may be something to be thinking about for next year, even.

Finally, as I have done for years, I urge the County Council to create a rainy-day fund for the County of Maui. This interest-collecting fund--untouchable except for essential services during economic hard times--should have a cap of perhaps 10 percent of a recent budget, which would mean somewhere between 18 and 25 million dollars. And I would like to comment on one thing that Marni testified on and this was that other thing that's been on a list for over ten years and that's the complete replacement or repair of the . . . uh . . . the sanitary facilities at Hana Bay. Thank you for your consideration.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, John. We appreciate your testimony this evening. Next, we have Mr. Carl Lindquist.

MR. LINDQUIST: Aloha and thank you for your coming to Hana. I'm gonna, yeah, testify also in support of the Hana Senior Center. I'm older than the other people who testified so I have a deep interest. . . . *(chuckled)* . . .

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OTHERS: . . . (*chuckled*) . . .

MR. LINDQUIST: But seriously, the Hale Hulu Mamo has more than lived up to its promise of . . . uh . . . providing a safe place for our seniors to go. Providing not only a safe place for them--where they can gather together and share their memories and stories and stuff--but also giving a wonderful . . . uh . . . opportunity to the caregivers, to give them some respite to be able to go to the other side and go shopping . . . uh . . . to do the things that they have to do to take care of their loved ones. And I appreciate your support and hope it can continue. I also want to speak in support of the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. It's a long way from here but the Arts & Cultural Center is one of those foundation organizations whose influence spreads throughout the County, certainly here into Hana. And . . . uh . . . if it's, it's a hard job for us to get out there and many of us don't make many performances but still the influence is felt here in Hana in many, many different ways--with our, the art of our young children and the exposure of the language of arts and culture--giving us a common way to converse with people in other areas. And I think it's a very, very important part of Maui County's activities and I hope you'll continue to support them. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Lindquist. Next, we have Lisa Hamilton.

MS. HAMILTON: Hello.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi.

MS. HAMILTON: Good evening. Thank you for coming out.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good evening.

MS. HAMILTON: I'm speaking out as an individual this evening and . . . uh . . . I ask you to . . . um . . . give the consideration to a project that I really want to put some effort into making it come to be--mainly a newspaper for the Hana district. And . . . uh . . . I am asking for a matching fund of merely \$1,500 because I believe that . . . uh . . . with this . . . uh . . . amount of money, we'll have \$3,000 and we can make our first issue. This newspaper would go to every . . . uh . . . patron--the rural patron box holder--and . . . um . . . would also be available for the tourists and . . . uh . . . out-of-state family members and friends. I wrote a grant for this, a little earlier. I'd like to give a copy of that to Bob so he can take a quick look at this and get a better idea of what the concept was . . . but that's my request. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Lisa.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Thank you.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Next, we have Mr. John Smith.

MR. SMITH: Aloha, Council members. I . . . uh . . . I was here to testify on behalf of MEO . . . uh . . . Microenterprise--a small business loan program. I would just like to thank you, first of all, supporting the MEO program because I feel it's a very beneficial program. I feel it's very beneficial because they harbor economic growth as well as education and . . . uh . . . I would urge you guys to continue to support this program in the near future to keep Hawaii's small business future bright. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, John. We're gonna take a short recess.

RECESS: 6:34 p.m.

RECONVENE: 6:35 p.m.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much for that short recess. Next, we have Barbara Sedano . . . Sedayo? I'm sorry if I'm mispronouncing it.

MS. SEDANO: That's right--it's Barbara Sedano. I'm with Project Impact and I just haven't, I know that you probably don't have a lot to do with the cuts that we're, that are gonna occur because of . . . uh . . . Federal monies. Project Impact has been very successful in informing our community how to prepare for disasters. This education has not been there for the community. And we're in a situation here where different communities get blocked off and are in some senses left on their own. And we want to try and prepare for all these different areas to have . . . uh . . . certain things available to them. And . . . uh . . . we're trying to prepare . . . at this time, there is nothing available if, like the last time, we had 300 people--visitors--that wound up having to stay at the Hana School and the community got involved and people throughout the, the area of . . . *(inaudible)* . . . fed them. And we wanna prepare to have this available, this kind of food, and . . . uh . . . we have a facility that we could store this stuff and we're hoping to purchase things that we can keep for this necessity--blankets . . . um . . . and maybe even radios if there's a, a nice enough amount of money that we had and we could afford to have communication because we find that this is something that's very . . . um . . . difficult. There's, there's communication between the, the Civil Defense and fi., the Fire Department and Police but the community people--themselves--unfortunately don't have that. So, we want to try and get that available to those of us who are willing to be there and help at times when everybody else can't get to these people . . . and it, and it happens. And this was only a small bit of it and it's only gonna get a little harder and difficult, so we want to be prepared. And we're hoping that we don't get totally cut out--financially--so that we can keep going. Thank you.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Barbara. Lesley Ann Bruce.

MS. BRUCE: Would it be possible to s..., to stand over there? Can the mic hear me from there?
(NOTE: She is pointing to the back stage area, where she has several paintings set up)

COUNCILMEMBER KANE: Right there. (NOTE: Councilmember Kane is pointing to the testifier's spot which is marked on the floor)

CHAIR HOKAMA: We ne..., we need you to, to be here--

COUNCILMEMBER KANE: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --for . . . (inaudible) . . .

MS. BRUCE: Well I need you to look there at some points. (NOTE: She is pointing to the back stage area, where she has several paintings set up)

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KANE: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Just tell us when to turn.

MS. BRUCE: My name is Lesley Ann Bruce. I am speaking as a resident of Hana since 1994. I ask for your support from Hana Arts, Inc. and the new Hana newspaper. Firstly, I su..., do support the Maui Arts & Cultural Center since last Summer and Fall. I had the opportunity to take two art classes and after that was asked to serve as a volunteer lead teacher for the Maui Arts & Cultural Center in Hana. I coordinated the kendo days and I've been asked to recruit 16 teachers, presently, to take part in a workshop that is being supported by Hana Maui Trust. I appreciate what Maui Arts & Cultural Center is offering in Hana. Art Maui gave me and my sister a small grant . . . give, they're gonna give off even Hana Arts, Inc. to work with ten Hana children to produce the paintings behind you. These paintings will be shown at the celebrating the arts in us, artist in us exhibition starting April 14th in Kahului at the Schaefer International . . . uh . . . Art Gallery. Hana Arts, Inc. needs your support because it is a tiny grassroots organization, providing arts, crafts, dance and drama lessons to people of diverse ages and backgrounds.

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Secondly, the Hana newspaper. For over a year, a variety of people have been seeking support to start a local grassroots newspaper. We need to know what is happening in Hana. Our news.., newspaper would provide investigative reporting of timely news, an opportunity for citizens to express opinions on . . . *(inaudible)* . . . pages. Businesses would be able to advertise in a variety of photographs and features of local interests . . . um . . . would be provided. Thank you very much and thank you for coming. Please buy a t-shirt.

OTHERS: . . . *(chuckled)* . . .

MS. BRUCE: Support . . . *(inaudible)* . . . (NOTE: She walked away from the mic and is speaking from the audience)

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Le., thank you, Lesley Ann. And we'll keep this as part of the records. *(NOTE: He is referring to the postcard she handed him)*

MS. BRUCE: The County of Maui received it. You must know, all the proceeds go to schools on Maui . . . and Moloka'i and Lana'i. *(NOTE: She is speaking from the audience)*

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Lesley. Next, we have . . . Dori? Dori Reeve? Good evening.

MS. REEVE: I want to urge you all to support the Mayor's . . . uh . . . proposal for the \$1 million fund for park and beach acquisition and that, that should stay for that purpose--that \$1 million--and not sort of fizzle off into other things. This is, obviously, one of the things that would so . . . um . . . be good for tourism . . . uh . . . it was a hope for all of us. Thank you.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Is there anyone else that would like to share some comments regarding the proposed budget this evening? If there is not, are there any announcements? Mr. Carroll?

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Yeah . . . uh . . . to everyone out there, if you know, or some of you might know where . . . uh . . . Maui Electric is putting in emergency generators to power all of Hana. The blessing will be on Wednesday, April 25th, but they should be online before then. Unfortunately, it's not online tonight.

OTHERS: . . . *(chuckled)* . . .

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COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: However, hopefully, this will be the last time that we go through this and we'll have an outage like this. And so . . . thank you to Maui Electric and if anybody who can come to the blessing, it will be at 12 o'clock Wednesday, April 25th, at the Maui Electric site--right by Kawaipapa Bridge. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: And thank you all for coming tonight.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Carroll. This meeting is adjourned.

ADJOURN: 6:42 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



G. RIKI HOKAMA, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

cow:min:010404:pm

Transcribed by: Pauline Martins